NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

STATEMENT OF

REAR ADMIRAL TERENCE E. MCKNIGHT, U.S. NAVY

COMMANDANT NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON

BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITEE

ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

ON

POLICING CAPITAL SITES: IMPROVING COORDINATION, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

21 JULY 2006

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Good morning. I am Rear Admiral Terence McKnight, Commandant of the Naval District Washington. I am also the Deputy Commander Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region.

The Naval District Washington (NDW) is one of seven major Navy Regions in the continental United States, all of which fall under the command of the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC). The mission of each Region is to sustain Fleet combat readiness through effective and efficient shore installation management and support for those Navy and Marine Corps installations within their area of responsibility. NDW is responsible for management and support of five Naval Support Activities (NSAs) within a region spanning parts of Virginia, all of Maryland and the District of Columbia (DC). In DC, NDW NSAs are: NSA North Potomac and NSA Washington, which includes the Washington Navy Yard, the headquarters for NDW. Each of these NSAs is occupied by tenant commands with varying missions and security needs, ranging from protection of the Vice President's residence to research projects critical to our national security.

Installation Commanding Officers rely on the NDW Security Force to meet the security needs, including law enforcement, at their installations. The mission of the Security Force is to protect life and property, enforce laws and regulations, and preserve good order and discipline in order to maintain a safe environment for command personnel, protect government property, and allow the command to perform its assigned mission. The NDW Security Force is comprised of military, government civilian employees, and contractors. The current size of the NDW Force region-wide is approximately 660



people. Of those, approximately 170 currently are employed in support of the security needs of the NDW installations located in the District of Columbia. Members of the NDW Security Force are ultimately under my authority, reporting through their chain-of-command, which includes NDW Public Safety Program Manager and the Installation Commanding Officers.

I will address four topics today regarding the NDW Security Force: Roles and Responsibilities, Resources, coordination Efforts, and Improving Security Efforts.

Roles and Responsibilities

The law enforcement functions performed by the NDW Security Force include: maintaining a protective presence to deter crime; responding to calls for assistance, alarms, and reports of criminal activity; enforcing laws, regulations and directives in areas of command jurisdiction; apprehending and processing suspects; enforcing traffic regulations; investigating traffic accidents; providing timely response to non-criminal service requests; providing escorts; and providing information and assistance to persons in need. These functions sound the same as other "police" organizations; and, as with other Department of Navy Security Forces, the NDW Security Forces are identified as "police" due to the universal recognition of that word. However, the jurisdiction and authority of NDW Security Forces is more limited than would typically be attributed to "police." For instance, serious criminal investigations that might ordinarily be done by police are the responsibility of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) rather than the NDW Security Force. In addition, the NDW Security Force generally does not have jurisdiction outside the legal boundaries of the Department of Navy installations to



which they are assigned unless otherwise directed or permitted by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Resources

The NDW Security Forces are trained in accordance with Navy directives and mission requirements. The Navy does not currently have any standard training academy for their civil service police and guards. However, NDW Security Force standard training curriculum includes such topics as jurisdiction and authority, use of force/weapons training/defensive tactics, radio communications, patrol procedures, vehicle stops and crowd control. Additionally, CNIC is member of a team led by the U.S. Army tasked by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to develop uniform standards, including a new training curriculum, for civil service police and guards for all of the military services.

Members of the NDW Security Force are also provided the equipment they need to accomplish their mission. They are issued guns with ammunition prescribed by the Department of Defense (DoD), batons, pepper spray, flashlights, handcuffs, radios, and as quickly as it can be supplied, body armor. In addition, the Enterprise Land Mobile Radio (ELMR) system, a new Navy-wide system that adheres to standards mandated by Congress, has already begun deployment. It is expected that by FY07, new handheld, base station and mobile radio subscriber units will be in place at NDW.

Coordination Efforts

The NDW Security Force coordinates with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and other federal agencies as required. Additionally, although neither the Navy nor NDW are



law enforcement agencies, the NDW Security Force maintains a relationship with the DC Metropolitan Police Department (MDP). The new radio system I referred to will enhance that coordination by providing the technology to allow our Security Force to communicate with the MPD on the MPD radio band should MPD so agree. Furthermore, NDW participates on the National Capital Region Council of Governments for crisis/emergency planning. As a result, consistent with DoD policy, the needs of national security and military preparedness, and the historic tradition of limiting direct military involvement in civilian law enforcement activities, the NDW Security Force can provide support to the local community in certain circumstances.

Larger coordination efforts among federal and local agencies in the event of an emergency in the National Capital Region (NCR) are the responsibility of the Joint Forces Headquarters, or JFHQ, of the National Capital Region, acting under the direction of the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). As I mentioned earlier, in addition to my responsibility as the Commandant NDW, I am the Deputy Commander JFHQ. JFHQ was created after 9-11 to be the Department of Defense's single point for integration and operational command and control unity of effort for homeland defense and civil support in the NCR. JFHQ is the single integrator for NCR-level interagency planning and response for emergencies in the NCR. Coordination with federal and local law enforcement agencies or emergencies is done through membership on the Joint Forces Task Force led by the JFHQ. Task force members include the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Coast Guard, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), and the National Guard for the NCR, local law enforcement and



emergency services and local installations. In accordance with JFHQ response protocol, it is expected that the majority of incidents that occur in the NCR can be handled by local responders. The next level of support would be provided by neighboring emergency providers, followed by state emergency coordination, or in DC, the DC Emergency Management Center. Once the state's resources are exhausted, then Federal capability would be brought in. Military support in such a situation is not authorized until approved by JFHQ. The JFHQ plans and coordinates, but only when directed by USNORTHCOM, will assume control of specified forces within the NCR.

Improving Security Efforts

I understand the Committee is concerned with issues that may make providing security at Capital sites more difficult. I cannot speak to security at all federal facilities; however, at NDW and the rest of the Regions throughout the world, the Navy continues to emphasize the right level of security at the right price to maximize efficiency in the delivery of its shore installation support services. Balancing the demands of providing the right level of security expected by our customers while maximizing support to the Fleet and the warfighter is always a challenge. Speaking for NDW, we are committed to providing the required security. Additionally, as our service model matures, we expect service delivery will improve.

In closing, security improvements are considered an on ongoing process at NDW. We continue to find ways to support our NDW Security Forces so they may accomplish their mission of protecting our NDW installations. And although we hope that it will never be necessary, we stand at the ready should we be called upon by the Joint Forces



Headquarters to support the National Capital Region in responding to an emergency. On behalf of all Navy sailors and civil servants, and their families, I thank the Congress for continuing and unwavering support and for the opportunity to testify.